

Lesson
1

What Is a Pronoun?

Teaching

A **pronoun** is a word that is used in place of a noun or another pronoun. The word that a personal pronoun refers to is called its **antecedent**.

Personal pronouns change their forms to reflect **person, number, and case**.

Person Personal pronouns have different forms for first person, second person, and third person.

Number Pronouns can be singular or plural.

Case Personal pronouns change their forms depending on how they are used in a sentence. Each pronoun has three cases: subject, object, and possessive.

		Subject	Object	Possessive
Singular	First Person	I	me	my, mine
	Second Person	you	you	your, yours
	Third Person	he, she, it	him, her, it	his, her, hers, its
Plural	First Person	we	us	our, ours
	Second Person	you	you	your, yours
	Third Person	they	them	their, theirs

Finding Personal Pronouns

Underline each personal pronoun in the following sentences.

1. We enjoy many stories from Greek mythology.
2. You may have heard about Persephone and how the Greeks explained the changes of the seasons.
3. She was the beautiful daughter of Demeter, the goddess of agriculture.
4. One day as she was picking flowers in the meadow, the ground opened.
5. Hades, the god of the dead, kidnapped her.
6. He took her to the underworld to be queen of his kingdom.
7. "Where is my daughter?" cried Demeter.
8. She became angry with the gods for allowing her daughter to be kidnapped.
9. She refused to allow their crops to grow.
10. The gods begged Zeus to help them.
11. Zeus asked Hades to return Persephone to her mother.
12. "But I have eaten pomegranate seeds as a sign of my marriage to Hades," said Persephone.
13. They finally came to an agreement.
14. Persephone would spend part of the year with her mother; this time would be our spring, summer, and fall.
15. She would live in the underworld the rest of the time; this time would be our winter.

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More Practice

A. Finding Personal Pronouns

Underline each personal pronoun in the following sentences.

1. Greek writers and artists often called on the Muses to help them in their work.
2. They were nine goddesses of the arts and sciences.
3. Their father was Zeus, the king of the gods.
4. A poet would call on Calliope, Erato, or Euterpe to help him or her compose the perfect poem.
5. Writers of tragedy or comedy invoked Melpomene or Thalia to aid them.
6. Singers and dancers directed their pleas to Polyhymnia and Terpsichore.
7. Clio was another goddess; she was the Muse of history.
8. Urania helped scientists because her specialty was astronomy.
9. The Muses had melodic voices and often used them to sing in a chorus.
10. They lived on Mount Olympus with their leader, Apollo.
11. He, like them, remained young and beautiful forever.
12. Our words *music* and *museum* are derived from the Greek word *muse*.

B. Using Personal Pronouns

Replace the underlined nouns in this paragraph with personal pronouns. Write the pronouns on the lines below.

Two brothers, Prometheus and Epimetheus, were members of a race of giant gods called Titans. The Titans assigned (1) Prometheus and Epimetheus the job of giving certain powers to the animals. Prometheus was angered when no gifts were left for people. (2) Prometheus stole fire from the gods and gave (3) fire to the poor people. Zeus punished Prometheus by chaining (4) Prometheus to a huge rock. Every day an eagle came and tore out (5) Prometheus' liver. At night (6) the liver would grow back.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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Application

A. Using Personal Pronouns

Rewrite this paragraph, using personal pronouns to replace some of the nouns that have been used too often. Write your revised paragraph on the lines below.

Pan was the Greek god of pastures and woods. Pan protected sheep and shepherds. Pan's body was half-man and half-goat. Ancient Greeks believed that Pan lived in lonely places, such as caves or mountains. Ancient Greeks thought Pan had a wild nature. According to ancient Greeks, Pan could fill humans with sudden terror. Pan was famous for inventing the reed panpipe. Pan played beautiful music on the panpipe.

B. Using Personal Pronouns in a Familiar Story

In your own words, retell a familiar folktale, fable, or myth that you know well, and write your version on the lines below. Be sure to use a variety of personal pronouns.
